	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/723,731	RHOADS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Andrew W. Johns	2624
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.		
1. This communication is responsive to the response and terminal disclaimer filed 13 July 2006.		
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1-9</u> .		
 3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some* c) None of the: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 		
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No		
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the		
International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).		
* Certified copies not received:		
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.		
4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.		
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.		
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached		
1) 🗌 hereto or 2) 🔲 to Paper No./Mail Date		
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date		
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).		
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.		
Attachment(s) 1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5 □ Notice of Informal P	atent Application (PTO-152)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	6. ☐ Interview Summary	
_	Paper No./Mail Dat	e
 Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/0- Paper No./Mail Date 7/13/06 	8), 7. X Examiner's Amenda	nent/Comment
 Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material 	8. X Examiner's Stateme	nt of Reasons for Allowance
	9.	

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification, on page 1, amend the paragraph that begins at line 4 to read:

--The present application is a continuation of co-pending application no. 10/012,703, filed December 7, 2001 (now US Patent No. 6,744,906published as US 2002-0061121-A1), which[[-]] The 10/012,703 application is a continuation of application no. 09/433,104, filed November 3, 1999 (now US Patent No. 6,636,615), which is a continuation in part of co-pending application serial number 09/234,780, filed January 20, 1999 (now abandoned), which claims the benefit is a continuation in part of application 60/071,983 filed January 20, 1998.--

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior art teaches or suggests scanning an original printed image having digital information embedded therein, determining the signal strength of the original image and comparing the signal strength of a printed image with the signal strength of the original printed image to determine whether or not the printed image is a copy of the original image, as required by claim 1. Similarly, the prior art also fails to teach or suggest detecting signal characteristics associated with information steganographically hidden in a received image or video, determining if the detected signal characteristics correspond to predetermined signal characteristics in an expected manner to determine if the image or video is a reproduction, as set forth in claim 7.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

- 3. Claims 1-9 are allowed.
- 4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Johns whose telephone number is (571) 272-7391. The examiner in normally available Monday through Friday, at least during the hours of 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Eastern Time. The examiner may also be contacted by e-mail using the address: andrew.johns@uspto.gov. (Applicant is reminded of the Office policy regarding e-mail communications. See M.P.E.P. § 502.03)

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matt Bella, can be reached at (571) 272-7778. The fax phone number for this art unit is (571) 273-8300. In order to ensure prompt delivery to the examiner, all unofficial communications should be clearly labeled as "Draft" or "Unofficial."

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center Receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

A. Johns 24 July 2006 ANDREW W. JOHNS PRIMARY EXAMINER